

carbohydrate component B comprises one polysaccharide or a mixture of two or more polysaccharides comprising a maximum of up to 100 monosaccharide units; and

wherein the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component A have a different structure than the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component B;

carbohydrate component A is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent and carbohydrate component B is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent of the sum of the carbohydrate components A + B, and that

at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates / saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B have a prebiotic effect.

14(New). A carbohydrate mixture for dietetic food products and pharmaceuticals containing several carbohydrates, characterized in that said mixture consists of two different, substantially soluble carbohydrate components A and B, which remain undigested in the gastrointestinal tract and enter the large intestine without being resorbed and wherein,

carbohydrate component A consists of at least one monosaccharide or at least one oligosaccharide or a mixture of two or of more of these saccharides;

carbohydrate component B consists of one polysaccharide or a mixture of two or more polysaccharides containing a maximum of up to 100 monosaccharide units; and

wherein the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component A have a different structure than the carbohydrates/saccharides of carbohydrate component B;

carbohydrate component A is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent and carbohydrate component B is present in an amount of from 5 to 95 weight percent of the sum of the carbohydrate components A + B, and that

at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates / saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B have a prebiotic effect.

15(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13 characterized in that at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria and/or are bifidogenic.

16(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14 characterized in that at least 80 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B promote lactic acid bacteria and/or are bifidogenic.

17(New). A carbohydrate mixture according claim 13, characterized in that the weight percent of the carbohydrate component A is higher than the weight percent of the carbohydrate component B.

18(New). A carbohydrate mixture according claim 14, characterized in that the weight percent of the carbohydrate component A is higher than the weight percent of the carbohydrate component B.

19(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 17, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises 95 to 60 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises 5 to 40 weight percent, with  $A + B = 100$  weight percent.

20(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 18, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises 95 to 60 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises 5 to 40 weight percent, with  $A + B = 100$  weight percent.

21(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 19, characterized in that the carbohydrate component A comprises about 90 weight percent and the carbohydrate component B comprises about 10 weight percent.

2. 22(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the  $\alpha$  1-4 and/or  $\alpha$  1-6 position.

23(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 21, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the  $\alpha$  1-4 and/or  $\alpha$  1-6 position.

24(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the  $\alpha$  1-4 and/or  $\alpha$  1-6 position.

25(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 17, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the  $\alpha$  1-4 and/or  $\alpha$  1-6 position.

26(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 18, characterized in that the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B do not have any glucose units linked at the  $\alpha$  1-4 and/or  $\alpha$  1-6 position.

27(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13, characterized in that at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component A belong to the galacto-oligosaccharide group and at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component B belong to the fructo-polysaccharide group.

28(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14, characterized in that at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component A belong to the galacto-

oligosaccharide group and at least 60 weight percent and in particular 80 to 100 weight percent of the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate component B belong to the fructo-polysaccharide group.

29(New). A carbohydrate mixture according to claim 13, characterized in that, apart from the carbohydrates/saccharides of the carbohydrate components A and B, they contain an insoluble carbohydrate or a soluble and digestible carbohydrate or a mixture of one or more of these carbohydrates.

30(New). A dietetical or pharmaceutical composition containing a carbohydrate mixture according to claim 14.

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concluded

31(New). A method for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans and/or promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria, which comprises administering to a human a growth promoting effective amount of the carbohydrate mixture of claim 13, to a human in need of promotion of growth of flora of the large intestine or in need of promotion of growth of lactic acid

32(New). A method for promoting growth of flora of the large intestine in humans and/or promoting the growth of lactic acid bacteria, which comprises administering to a human a growth promoting effective amount of the carbohydrate mixture of claim 14.